

U. S. Patent Application No.: 10/699,963
Amendment Dated April 25, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 23, 2006

16. (Previously Presented) A method for providing an alternate path to ground of a high voltage surge carried by a coaxial cable in a CATV distribution system, prior to the surge passing through a coaxial cable connector having an input end, a body portion defining an internal cavity, an electrical component positioned within the cavity, and an input pin extending forward from the electrical component toward the input end and electrically connected to the central conductor of the coaxial cable, said method comprising the steps of:

positioning an input pin that provides electrical contact to an electrical component located within a cavity defined by a body portion of a connector;

positioning an electrically conductive ring-shaped surge protective element, made entirely of one conductive material, entirely within said cavity so that it surrounds said input pin and so that it physically and electrically connects to said body portion of said connector; and

maintaining an air gap of predetermined size between said surge protective element and said input pin.

Remarks

This document is a response to a Final Office Action that was mailed on March 23, 2006. This response includes amendments to the pending claims 1, 4, 6 and 15. The claim amendments were previously faxed to Examiner Thomas on April 19, 2006. In a telephone conference on April 21, 2006, Examiner Thomas stated that the claims 1, 4, 6 and 15 would be allowable as amended if accompanied by a Terminal Disclaimer as specified in the Final Office Action. Accordingly, a Terminal Disclaimer as specified within the Final Office Action and signed by James R. Muldoon, an attorney of record, is accompanied with this response.

The amendments to claims 1, 4, 6 and 15 are being made to employ more consistent use of claim terminology and to eliminate unintended ambiguity that is apparently creating differences between the Applicant's and the Examiner's interpretation of the meaning of the claims.

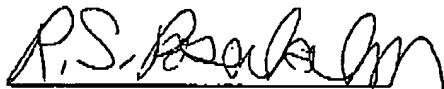
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For example, all claim recitations of "electronic component" were replaced with "electrical component" to employ more consistent use of claim terminology. Also for example, the recitation of "ring" within claim 1, is being supplemented with the language "where said ring is configured to surround and to not make physical contact with a conductive pin included within said electrical component" as described within the Applicant's specification and as intended by the Applicant for the meaning of "ring", before the above described amendment to claim 1. The purpose of the aforementioned amendment is to employ more consistent use of claim terminology in accordance with that of the allowed claims 15-16. The Applicant's amendments to the claims 1, 4, 6 and 15, are not intended to change the scope of these claims. The Applicant believes that the scope of the Applicant's claims, before and after the above described amendments, does not include the subject matter of any prior art known to the Applicant at this time. No new matter has been added.

As a matter of law, because independent claim 1 now distinguishes over the cited art, claims 2-13 which depend from the independent claim 1, also distinguish over the cited art. Claims 15-16 have been allowed. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allow claims 1-16. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0289.

Respectfully submitted,

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